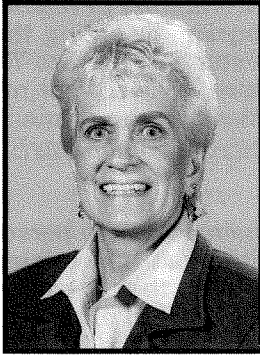


Hammerstrom's

for the people
in the 17th Senate District

Hotline



State Senator
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December 15, 2003



SENATE WORKS TO HELP REDUCE VOTER CONFUSION

The Senate recently passed a package of bills aimed at increasing awareness of elections among Michigan voters, improve voter turnout, and save taxpayer dollars. The Election Consolidation bills (House Bills 4820 and 4822-4828 and Senate Bill 877) require Michigan's elections be held on the fourth Tuesday in February and the first Tuesday following the first Monday in May, August, and November. A fifth "floater" date was also included in the legislation to allow school districts to run a millage or bond issue if enough petition signatures are obtained. However, the election must still be held on a Tuesday and may not be held 30 days before or 35 days after one of the four dates above. The legislation also requires elections in the state to be conducted by county, township, or municipal clerks.

If you would like to receive future issues of Hammerstrom's Hotline via e-mail, please contact me at SenBHammerstrom@senate.michigan.gov.

SCRAP TIRE CLEANUP APPLICATION AVAILABLE

Applications are now available from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for funding under the Scrap Tire Cleanup Grant Program. The Legislature appropriated up to \$2.5 million from the Scrap Tire Regulatory Fund for this program in Fiscal Year 2004. Since program funding began in 1993, the DEQ has issued nearly \$9,830,650 in cleanup grant dollars. Property owners with abandoned scrap tires and scrap tires at collection sites are eligible for funding assistance under this program. The DEQ will reimburse owners of selected scrap tire collection sites for expenses incurred for the transportation of scrap tires from a selected site, the processing of scrap tires by a Michigan scrap tire processor, and the delivery of scrap tires by the processor to an approved end-user. The application and all supporting documents must be postmarked on or before December 29, 2003. To receive an application, call (517) 335-4035 or visit the DEQ website at www.michigan.gov/deq.

2004 GRANT PROGRAMS CATALOG AVAILABLE

"The Michigan Department of Natural Resources 2004 Grant Programs" catalog includes information in regard to the various funding programs available through the DNR. Descriptions of each grant program, including those available through the Fiscal Year 2003-2004 Appropriations for Operations and Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, are provided in the catalog, as well as contact information for the responsible Bureau/Division. For more information about the Grants Program catalog, or to request a copy, please contact the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Grants, Contracts, and Customer Systems at (517) 373-9125, or visit www.michigan.gov/dnr.

E-MAIL VIRUS USED AS LATEST ID THEFT PLOY

Michigan residents should be cautious of the latest method identity thieves are using to gain access to personal information such as credit card and Social Security numbers. The new "PayPal" e-mail claims that the recipient's PayPal account will be closed within five business days if they do not supply the sender with their credit card number or other identifying information. The e-mail is also a virus that, once opened, sends itself to other e-mail addresses it finds in the address books of unsuspecting victims. These messages are not sent from the legitimate online payment company PayPal. Consumers should always use caution when giving out their credit card or Social Security numbers. Anyone who believes they have become a victim of identity theft should contact the Attorney General's hotline at 1-800-24-ABUSE (242-2873).

DID YOU KNOW? According to the Federal Trade Commission, in 2002, 43% of Michigan residents who had become victims of identity theft reported that the theft occurred using the victim's credit card number(s).